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## NOTES OF THE FARM.

By W. F. MASSEY, of A. & M. College.

Some years ago the N. C. Experiment Station published a bulletin warning the farmers against certain men who are imposing on them by the sale of what they claim to be seed methods of mixing fertilizers. In that bulletin we printed the formula which these men are selling. Today I received a letter from a correspondent in Rowan county who says that he reads my letters in the Advocate with pleasure, and who says that there are men in his neighborhood selling a fertilizer recipe for \$1.00 each. He sends me a circular making the most extravagant claims with the name of a self-styled "Professor" appended. Of what college he is a professor is not signed. The same recipe which these men are selling was sent to me some time ago by a reader of the Advocate and I printed it in full in these columns, and our present correspondent must have seen it, so there is no need for his paying \$1 for it. The great difficulty in these things is that the men who are taken in by these fellows are the ones who will not read, will not take the bulletins, will not take a farm paper, and who have a contempt for what they call "book farming." So I do not know that it is much pity if they get sold. Any one who wants this recipe can get it already printed in our bulletin or by referring to the back numbers of the Advocate. We will send the bulletin warning against fertilizer peddlers to any one who asks for it, and we will send a lot to our Rowan correspondent to distribute. We sent a lot of them to Caldwell county some time since, and they can probably still be found at Mr. Nedson's store in Lenoir.

The same correspondent says that he has grown a fine crop of early potatoes, and wants to know how he can grow a second crop from these. Our method is as follows: We grow the second crop from the early ones for seed mainly, as they make the best of seed for the spring planting.

We spread the potatoes out in a single layer on the ground, and let them get a little greened. Then, after clipping a small piece from the end of each potato, as they sprout more quickly when slightly cut, we cover them with pine straw slightly dampened. Then watch them, and as soon as they begin to sprout, plant them in a deep furrow, and cover them very shallow till they grow. Then work the earth to them as they grow till level, and cultivate perfectly level. We hill the early potatoes as we then need the warmth of the sun, but the late potatoes we cultivate flat to preserve moisture in the soil. We plant as they sprout up to the middle of August. These potatoes will keep growing green till the frost kills the tops. We have had them keep green on high land till the first of December. Dig at this time they keep very well, and do not sprout during the winter as the Northern potatoes do, and when planted, they grow with the strong growth of the germinal bud which has been rubbed off the Northern potatoes, and will make a far better crop. We have planted them side by side with potatoes from Maine and New York, and they beat them every time. In fact there was not a potato in the lot grown from the Northern seed that would not have been a culch in the lot from the home grown seed. Our truck growers in the Eastern part of the State all grow these second crop potatoes for seed and use no others. One of the leading growers there told me some time ago that their second crop was nearly sold "North in February and March as "New Bermudas," at \$3 to \$5 per barrel.

A friend in Alamance writes that for the past ten years he has been trying to follow my directions, and is making a success of his farm. But he says that he sometimes has difficulties which bother him. He has been trying to get a stand of crimson clover by sowing the seed in the corn after the last working, preparing the land with a light harrow made for the purpose. But he has failed to get a stand. He has no difficulty in getting a stand of the ordinary red clover, but he wants the annual clover to give him a pasture for his sheep in the early spring and on which to feed manure and plow under for late potatoes in July. He therefore wants me to tell him how he can get a stand.

The chief difficulty, I think, is that he sows too early. It will do to sow crimson clover in July northward, but in our climate the plants then are not so well established when germinating by a heavy rain followed by hot sunshine. You will do better to sow peas among your corn, and either cut them when the corn is off or let them ripen and drop their leaves, and sow the clover seed among the peas in September. If you cut the peas, you can disk the stubble so as to leave the trash on top as a shade for the young clover, and sow some winter oats with the clover as a further shade. You can thus get a fine winter and spring pasture, and we believe the clover will succeed at that time. Our friend says that he sows part of

his corn land in peas as a preparation for wheat, and that he is getting the wheat all right. The farmer who sows peas and clover is on the right track, and will be sure to win in the end. I have a considerable area here sown in peas which will be cut for hay by the last of July or early August, and this stubble I propose to use for the sowing of the crimson clover, and confidently expect to get a stand. One of the principal reasons for a failure in getting a stand of clover in many cases is the sowing of too little seed. We always sow 15 pounds per acre, and never failed to get a stand but once, when our red clover, sown in the spring, was killed by frost just as it was coming through. Thick seeding is one of the surest ways to get a stand of clover or grass either. A thick growth of clover will pay well for an extra expenditure for seed, and a poor crop from thin seeding will make a far greater loss than the seed would have cost.

Winston correspondent sends samples of Elm leaves eaten by an insect which he also sends. This is the elm beetle, an imported European insect. They make three broods a year, and go into the pupa state at the base of the trees in crevices of the bark. The best way to destroy them is to saturate all the crevices at the base of the tree where they hide with kerosene emulsion. This is made by dissolving half a pound of common lye soap in a gallon of boiling soft water. Then add two gallons of kerosene and churn them till the oil and water unite and form a creamy emulsion. Then add 20 parts of soft water and it is ready for use. It is better to use hot as it is apt to jelly when cold.

Another city correspondent writes me that he has a lot of horses which are being worked hard in drays and that he thinks corn too heating a feed for them. He wants a ration that will be better. For heavy horses that are kept at work in summer, corn is far too fattening in its nature, and you need a better muscle making food. For such horses I would advise 15 pounds of oats and 3 pounds of bran daily at three feeds with all the cut hay they will eat. This will be a better muscle making ration, and can be reduced or increased according to the weight and character of the horse.

"I will soon have about 200 to 300 bushels of Yellow Danvers and Silver Skin onion. What is usually the best market for them when matured? Is it better to ship in barrels or baskets?" The varieties of onions you have are fairly good keepers, and may be kept till cold weather and then sold in any of the Southern cities at better prices than usual in the North. If barreled and shipped at once North, they may bring a good price before the Northern crop comes in, but later the Southern market is the best. Onions that are intended to be kept should be well cured at first, and should be cured with the tops on, for they sprout much more quickly if the tops are taken off than if they are cured with the tops on. The dry tops will also prevent their packing too closely and heating. My plan is to pull the onions when ripe, and let them lie a day or so in the sun, but not allowed to be reaped upon. Then spread them in the hottest place indoors you can find, up near the roof of an outbuilding or some such place, so that they will get well cured, and then put them in a cooler place; but spread thinly. The Danvers is a better keeper than the Silver Skin, but the best keepers are the Southport White Globe and the Opal, a red onion. These will keep all winter if grown here from the seed. Onions grown from the set are not worth anything for keeping and should always be used green. I have fine onions now ready to pull, which were grown from the black seed sown this spring. These are far better than any grown from sets.

W. F. MASSEY.

### CELLAR UNHEALTHY.

Cellars should never be constructed by excavations beneath houses in the ordinary way. Vegetables are frequently left in cellars to rot, thus forming carbonic acid gas. This gas is very unhealthy and being heavier than common air it settles to the bottom of the cellar. Persons entering the cellar are apt to breathe it. Sick ness, frequently of a malignant nature, is often communicated in this way. Gas when inhaled pure will produce death in a few minutes, but it is not often found in cellars sufficiently pure for this purpose. A small quantity combined with common air will, however, produce sickness.

Some months back I was reading of a section that was much infected with a malignant fever. An investigation showed that in every case where there was fever there was a cellar beneath the house, while the houses without cellars were generally exempt.

The Remedy: A ditch should be cut from the bottom of the cellar leading outward slightly inclined so as to

carry water when necessary. The ditch should be tiled with brick or stone, leaving an aperture, say six to eight inches square, the entire length of the ditch. The drain should be opened occasionally at the upper or lower end which will cause the gas to flow outward thus keeping the cellar in a healthy condition.

IRVING TYSON.

Harrison, N. C.

### CRIMSON CLOVER.

Crimson clover may be sown any time from July to November 1, July and August being preferable. The land should be previously well pulverized one foot deep, but should be settled by a rain before seeding. Very shallow plowing is best immediately preceding the seeding, which should be at the rate of about 15 pounds per acre, broadcasted and harrowed in lightly. A good supply of humus in the soil is necessary for a good catch. At the South, in a pea growing section, the humus can be advantageously supplied with pea vines grown and turned under.

Many failures to procure a catch of clover, red and crimson, are attributable to a lack of humus in the soil.

The following fertilizer may be applied per acre:  
Acid Phosphate, 300 to 400 pounds.  
Kainit, 400 to 500 pounds.  
Mix thoroughly with the soil, plowing shallow, about three weeks before seeding the clover. 100 to 125 pounds mixture of potash may be used in lieu of the Kainit.

If the above fertilizer be applied to the crop of pea vines, previously grown and turned, the clover will not need any fertilizer, the pea vines supplying all that is necessary. In this case the pea vines should be turned sufficiently early for them to at least partially decompose before the clover is seeded. They should mature before being turned.

In some cases oats seeded thinly with the clover have been found to answer a good purpose. They protect the clover in time of drought. Soon after the oats head out they should be cut and removed for hay; do not permit them to ripen.

Crimson clover is of the legume family, and gathers the needed nitrogen from the air. It is a fact that makes this plant, as well as the other legumes, so valuable for restoring worn lands. A heavy crop of clover will produce about 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This is equivalent to about 600 pounds of nitrate of soda. Chili saltpetre. The country people may not know what nitrogen and nitrate of soda are, but they all know what saltpetre is. They know what an active fertilizer the scrapings from beneath old houses is by reason of the saltpetre they contain. Well, when you can virtually grow saltpetre all over your fields why not do so? Now, just how clover and pea vines draw nitrogen from the air I do not know, nor is it necessary to know. They draw it in beautiful quantities for the succeeding crop, with a large surplus over for the enrichment of the soil. You get this valuable fertilizer (nitrogen) delivered to all parts of the field without the trouble and expense of handling. But in order to get a profitable crop of nitrogen, the growing crop must be liberally fertilized; and in case of peas, they should be highly cultivated in addition to the fertilizing.

IRVING TYSON.

### ARBITRATION.

The plan is very simple, and I will therefore, employ a few words only in setting it forth. Each nation of the earth should select a proper person to represent it. The persons so selected should form a Commission. The Commission may elect a chairman. Upon the request of any member of the Commission the chairman is to convene same at some convenient point where any question that ordinarily terminate in war is to be submitted. After decision any award that may have been made is to be strictly abided by. That if any nation refuse to abide by the judgment that may have been rendered by the Commission, and especially if any nation proceed to acts of bloodshed without previously having had the matter properly determined the residue of the nations forming said compact shall set upon the offending nation and wipe it from the face of the earth.

If a proper portion of the money that is ordinarily expended on wars and in warlike preparations were expended in granting pensions to the indigent poor beyond 70 and to those accidentally maimed, great blessings would therefrom, and an immense saving would be effected to the people.

IRVING TYSON.

Harrison, N. C.

Irving Bacheller, the noted newspaper man of New York, who was the father of the newspaper syndicate idea, has taken to more permanent writing and has produced an American novel, "Eben Holden," which was accepted on first reading by the Lothrop Publishing Company, and which will be brought out by that Boston house within a few days. The advance orders have been surprising for a book not published. In spite of the temptation to write a heroic book to meet the popular craze for romance, the veteran newspaper man has turned to Northern New York for mingled humor, realism, and clever characterization, interwoven with a charming love story. "Uncle Eb" Holden, the title character promises to be a favorite this summer.

## FAILURES THIS YEAR AND LAST

Difference Due to the Large Business Done.

### IN TIME OF GREAT DANGER

Dun & Co. Argue That Conditions Are Very Satisfactory.

### RESULTS OF SPECULATION IN COTTON

Prices Have Been Held Too High For the Comfort of Foreign Spinners. But the Closing of Factors Will Bring a Remedy.

(By the Associated Press.)  
New York, July 13.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade for tomorrow will say:

"If the great increase in failures to \$109,570,124 in the first half of 1900, against \$49,654,661 last year, and especially to \$42,892,079 in the second quarter against \$21,695,635 last year, gave no occasion for diligent search, failure returns would be worth nothing. But today it is shown that 30 banking failures for \$25,822,682 against 21 last year for \$7,801,728 accounted for much of the difference; that 265 brokerage and real estate failures for \$22,122,515, against 155 last year for only \$2,328,215 accounted for another part, and that in building and lumber working and trade other large failures distinctly connected with those in real estate explain more of the difference between manufacturing and trading failures during the last year and this. In these and much less important changes in a few other lines are seen substantially all the commercial disasters as yet resulting from an amazing rise in prices last year, followed by weary but largely successful efforts during the past few months to get back to a normal state of business. When this is seen and the remarkable steadiness in number and size of the great majority of failures not for exceptional amounts, there appears ground for especial satisfaction that business has been on the whole soundly conducted under conditions of unusual danger.

"The Iron Age makes the output of pig 283,413 tons weekly, July 1st, but the decrease of 16,000 tons has by this time been exceeded, other furnaces having stopped this month, and repairs of works and of waste scales may yet occupy some weeks. The increase of 86,958 tons in stocks unsold implies decrease in manufacture more than double the decrease in output and works of five of the great corporations are waiting for decline in wages just when the workers have looked for increase. Open markets are now admitted at Pittsburgh, where quotations have been for some time nominal, and Bessemer pig is offered there at \$16.

"Cotton speculation has held the price too high for the comfort of foreign spinners, who have not provided for all their wants, but the arrangement by the Fall River Committee to close for a month or more a large part of the New England mills will clear away many disputes about the market for goods. The end of the crop year has brought the usual estimates which command not more confidence than usual. If the country could get out of a crop called 57,000,000 bushels, all it wants for food and seed and 200,000,000 bushels for export, with considerable left over in sight, it is the easy inference that anxiety is needless.

"There is no evidence as yet, and for some time cannot be, that injuries sustained have been as great as some suppose, so that alarm is not more necessary than it was last year.

"Failures for the week have been 196 in the United States against 169 last year, and 26 in Canada, against 24 last year."

### TOTAL NET RECEIPTS.

New York, July 13.—The following are the total net receipts of cotton at all ports since September 1st, 1899:  
Galveston, 1,099,279 bales; New Orleans, 1,834,948; Mobile, 202,378; Savannah, 1,065,950; Charleston, 259,635; Wilmington, 278,648; Norfolk, 290,378; Baltimore, 96,700; New York, 114,284; Boston, 119,241; Newport News, 17,581; Philadelphia, 48,332; Brunswick, 32,405; Port Arthur and Sabine Pass, 63,029; Pensacola, 129,302. Total, 6,467,651 bales.

### TOTAL BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, July 13.—The total bank clearings at the principal cities of the United States for the week ending July 13th, were \$1,525,614,556, a decrease as compared with the corresponding week of last year of 21.1 percent.  
Outside of New York city the total clearings were \$664,622,215, a decrease of 8 percent.

### COMPARATIVE COTTON STATEMENT.

New York, July 13.—For the week ending Friday, July 13, 1900. Net receipts at all United States ports during week, 25,331; net receipts at all United States ports during same week last year, 24,006; total receipts to this date, 6,467,651; total receipts to same date last year, 5,280,826; exports for the week, 13,132; exports for same week last year, 50,826; total exports to this date, 5,555,933; total exports to same date last year, 7,016,437; stock at all United States ports, 159,327; stock at all United States ports same time last

year, 422,362; stock at all interior towns, 69,094; stock at all interior towns same time last year, 245,216; stock at Liverpool, 358,966; stock at Liverpool same time last year, 1,179,096; stock of American about for Great Britain, 24,000; stock of American about for Great Britain same time last year, 36,000.

## Literary Notes.

DICKENS BY HIS DAUGHTER.

While the reputations of the novelists of the day rise, shine, fade and fall, the light of Charles Dickens is burning more brightly than ever before. It is undoubtedly true that he is more read today than in the height of his fame, and the person who reads English at all without gaining an intimate acquaintance with the rollicking wit, the profound pathos and the unequalled characterizations of this master of story-tellers is fairly unknown. A new instance of this perennial popularity is to be found in the recent publication of "My Father as I Recall Him," by Mamie Dickens, one of his tenderly beloved children, now passed away, between the writing and the publication of her book.

All the world knows by this time that Charles Dickens was a man more than ordinarily fond of his home, but the whole truth is reserved for one who, as she says, holds him in such dear remembrance that "my love for my father has never been touched nor approached by any other love." He took the most minute and careful interest in everything that pertained to the life at home, and to his family, always in the most tender and affectionate way. Every summer he went away with them to a little place called Broadstairs, and everywhere he went Miss Dickens has been able to recognize descriptions of the utmost faithfulness in his published writings. When himself away, his correspondence was voluminous.

### McCLURE'S MAGAZINE FOR JULY.

The July number of McClure's Magazine contains notable features; among them, a story by Rudyard Kipling, articles on W. J. Bryan, on Railways in China, and on our diplomatic relations with Great Britain. "The Outsider," by Rudyard Kipling, is the tale of a young British subaltern detailed to the command of a remote military station, where he makes himself ridiculous by his arrogance and stupidity. This strong story introduces us once more of the immortal Tommy Atkins; and it is one of the most amusing tales Kipling ever wrote.

Mr. William Allen White's "political portrait" of William Jennings Bryan will attract particular attention. Without defending Mr. Bryan's cause, the article presents a most attractive picture of his personality. He also suggests what would happen if Bryan should be elected President.

A. Maurice Low, the American correspondent of the London Chronicle, writes in this issue of the cordial "understanding" which exists between the two great Anglo-Saxon powers at the present day. Many of the acts presented have never before been made public.

"Railway Development in China," by Mr. Wm. Barclay Parsons, chief engineer of the American-China Development Company, is of especial interest at this time because of the light thrown on the rivalry of the European powers, and on the political aspects of the purely commercial aspects of China's railway development. But those who think to find the man delighting in the holidays at Christmas time because the season was so fond of picturing that season of mercy and good will are not doomed to disappointment. Charles Dickens looked forward to that merry week with all the eagerness and delight of a boy and his life was then at its fullest and richest, when his children were little he used to take them all to a toy shop every Christmas eve and let them spend hours in choosing, with much pretense of mystery, presents for one another. When the boys grew big enough to go away to school their home-coming was the signal for the most elaborate home entertainment. Twelfth night, being the anniversary of the younger Charles' birth, was always celebrated by a dancing party.

When he was writing the most absolute silence was demanded and none of his children knew much about his manner of work beyond this and the further fact that he was always shut up in his study alone. But when his hours were over the noise and confusion of so large a city as London seemed to give him both rest and inspiration. The only exception to his being quite alone when at work was made for his daughter Mamie during her convalescence after a serious illness in childhood. She was taken in and laid on the sofa, where she remained in perfect silence for hours, watching her father's pen run over one paper. He used to make faces as he wrote, undoubtedly entering upon the mimic life he described with such vividness.

Mr. John Morley's masterly study of Cromwell reaches a climax of interest in the June Century in which he will deal with the death of the king, the Commonwealth and the much mooted topic of Cromwell in Ireland.

## COTTON MILLS HURT BY WAR IN CHINA

Their Export of Goods Has Been Cut Off.

### BROWN DOMESTIC MILLS

Anxious For the "Boxer" Trouble to Come to an End.

### RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE IS ALSO FEARED

If She Gets Absolute Possession of North China

She Will Establish New Cotton Mills to Supply the Demand of the Celestials.

"No class of people read the news from China with more anxiety than the cotton mill men," said a manufacturer yesterday.

"And why?" I asked.  
"Because the war is seriously crippling their business," he replied. "Then he went on to explain that so far only the mills that make brown domestic are seriously affected, while the spinning and the dingham mills have found little difference.

"But of course," he added, "if the thing keeps up long we'll all be affected pretty much alike. Our exports of cotton goods to China consist principally of brown domestic, but the brown domestic mills have to buy thread and when they stop buying it that hurts the yarn mill. And when also when they stop making brown domestic they'll make something else, and that will affect lines of the cotton milling business.

It is a fact not generally known that the cotton manufacturers of America, especially those of the Southern States, are more concerned than any other export interests. Their trade in North China, the seat of the present "Boxer" troubles, has grown in ten years from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and bids fair, under favorable conditions, to grow to \$25,000,000 in the near future.

Out of the present trouble in China also, grows a fear on the part of the cotton manufacturers of this country that if Russia obtains absolute possession there will be discrimination in this particular section in favor of the new cotton mills of southern Russia, and that they will eventually be crowded out where under Chinese sovereignty they would be safe. Russia's diplomatic promises on this point may sound honest, and they may be honest and sincere at the present, but no one can tell what will be the influence of the Russian cotton spinners on a new ministry.

It is of the utmost importance, especially to the Southern States, that the Chinese demand for cotton goods should not be cut off," concluded my cotton mill man.

Charles Dickens was a most careful and methodical man, all his affairs being arranged with the most scrupulous neatness and precision. With this, as might be expected, he was on the stroke of the clock in all matters of punctuality. It was largely in this way that he got so much done in his lifetime. For he was always ready to do all a man could to relieve misery and pain, giving up his own comforts cheerfully in the event of any ailment in the family or among his friends. But, in marked contrast to what might be expected from his published works, he was a man little given to the pleasures of the table. Competent critics have declared that no small part of the charm of reading his novels lies in the hearty eating and drinking which take up so much space in them and it is often said that no one can read ten chapters of Dickens without getting hungry; but the man himself cared little for that sort of thing.

Being remarkably abstemious in both eating and drinking he made a delightful host, finding time to make every one at his table set himself in his best light and keeping himself out of the conversation except when he thought it necessary to set some one else to talking. But his daughter bears witness that he was still more delightful in his family and that no dinner ever closed without finding him happy himself and engaged in making others happy, no matter how tired and abstracted he might have seemed on sitting down to the table.

Allegations were made in the English Parliament last week that conditions in London rival anything discovered by the Lexow and Maet investigations in New York—immoral dens, blackmailing, bribery of the police and nameless vices imported from the Orient.

Comptroller General Wright, of Georgia, has issued a peremptory order against the Plant System demanding the payment of taxes of \$50,000 worth of property in Georgia, which the State claims the company did not include in its recent property returns.